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It is possible to compute the age of this interment within somewhat wide limits. Articles of European manufacture had not become common among the Senecas of this region till within quite a short time of De Nonville's expedition. On the other hand, the history of Victor goes back about a hundred years, so that it is practically certain that this grave is not earlier than 1650 nor later than 1800. So far as could be judged by the appearance of the bones—by comparison with others in which some idea of the age of interment may be formed—and by the state of preservation of the relics, the remains date back of English influence and come within the period of French influence, somewhere about the close of the seventeenth century.

The grave referred to as opened at the site of the village of Ganagarū, was described in the *NATURALIST* several years ago. The skeleton was that of a young person, the wisdom-teeth not having been fully developed and the bones being immature, though nearly of adult size. The body had been put or had been left in the "mummy attitude," with elbows and knees bent at the sides of the trunk. Strangely enough, the remains were found head downward. With this skeleton rested that of a turtle—perhaps indicating the clan of the deceased—thirty feet of French glass beads, ninety feet of wampum, a brass kettle, a bone head-comb, showing in silhouette, the figures of a man on horseback and of another person standing behind him, and other ornaments. These would seem to indicate that the person was a woman, and doubtless a young lady of distinction, from the wealth buried with her.

Other burials in the same vicinity have shown somewhat similar relics, and belong to the period when the wares of the French traders were mingled with the weapons and implements of the Stone Age.

A. L. BENEDICT.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

Mr. J. E. S. Moore has an interesting sketch of some of the faunal features of Lake Tanganyika in *Nature* of July 1. He concludes "that the fauna of Tanganyika is comparatively old, for it is unlike anything now inhabiting the sea, and if it is derived from a previous freshwater stock, much time would be required for the evolution of its widely divergent present forms."

The natural history building of the University of Illinois, dedicated a few years ago, was struck by lightning on June 17 and partially de-

stroyed. The greatest damage occurred in the botanical and geological departments; the library and the zoological collections were but slightly injured. The total loss is estimated at \$8000.

Dr. James Ellis Humphrey, Associate Professor of Botany in Johns Hopkins University, died in Port Antonio, Jamaica, August 17, at the age of 36. Dr. Humphrey had agreed to be one of the Botanical Editors of the *American Naturalist*, under its new management. A sketch of his life will appear in our next number.

The recent appointment of Mr. Ernest William MacBride, fellow of St. Johns College, Cambridge to the professorship of zoology in McGill University, Montreal, marks a distinct step in advance in that institution. Professor MacBride is well known through his researches on the embryology of Echinoderms and Batrachia.

Dr. Japetus Steenstrup, until 1885 professor of zoology in the University of Copenhagen, has just died. He was born March 8, 1813. His work was largely in the line of marine zoology and his essays on hermaphroditism and on alternation of generations attracted wide attention in their day.

The efforts made to have natural history specimens admitted to the mails of the Universal Postal Union has met with partial success in so far that these objects are now classified as samples and are charged postage at the rate of one cent for every two ounces.

The plans and significations for the new wing of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, have recently been approved and bids for the construction of the addition are now being received.

A new journal is the *Annotationes Zoologicae Japonensis*. The first number contains a short but interesting sketch of biology in Japan by Professor Mitsukure.

The Cagnola prize of \$500 and a gold medal have been awarded to Prof. Ferdinando Sordelli for his memoir on the vegetation of Lombardy in geological time.

Nearly 300,000 francs has been subscribed to the fund for a monument to Pasteur in Paris. The commission for the statue has been given to M. Falguières.

Professor H. W. Conn of Wesleyan University will spend next year in Europe. His biological courses will be conducted by Mr. Estin during his absence.

Professors Wilhelm His and A. Ramsay have received the honorary degree of Science from the University of Dublin.

Mr. A. W. Bennett succeeds Prof. T. Jeffrey Bell as editor of the Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society.

Professor Sollas of Dublin, goes to Cambridge as successor to the late Professor Green in the chair of Geology.

A zoological club has been organized at Springfield, Mass. with a membership of nineteen.

Prof. T. W. Engelmann of Utrecht, goes to Berlin as Professor of Physiology.

Professor Leuckart has been made a Knight of the Prussian Order of Merit.